

# The Adair County News.

VOLUME XII

COLUMBIA, ADAIR COUNTY, KENTUCKY, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1908.

NUMBER 2

## THE GRADED SCHOOL QUESTION.

### A Question of Much Importance To Each and Every Citizen of The Two Columbia Districts.

#### Some Reasons Why I Favor The Graded School in Our Town.

The question is before the citizens of the town now as to whether we will have a graded school or not. The vote is to be taken the 28th, inst., to decide the question. If I should view it from a financial and selfish view point I would vote against the measure, for the reason that I have no children here who could derive any benefit from it, neither grandchildren or kinpeople. So I do not see how it could benefit me in any way from any selfish standpoint. But feeling that every good citizen ought to look in deciding a question like this to the greatest good to the greatest number.

Our common schools can never accomplish in the town, much greater good than are now doing. Two teachers can't do justice to three hundred pupils in the school under any circumstance. There is not room enough in the two school buildings here to accommodate them all, if they should all attend. There will not be the present year perhaps more than 33 1/2 per cent. of an average attendance, during the six months. So the State now pays eleven hundred dollars to the two teachers of Columbia for 100 pupils six months. It is not the fault of the teachers. It is the same all over the county, and has been for years.

The Graded School, will make a great change in this respect. There will be plenty of room provided in the graded school building to accommodate all the pupils in the district and plenty of teachers to do them justice. Then the attendance will be greater because of these additional accommodations.

Then my observation and experience has been that when parents realize they are paying directly out of their pockets a part of the tuition for their children, they will take more interest in sending their children to school. The attendance, I feel safe in saying from the experience of other towns, will reach an average of 75 per cent.

By the system of the graded schools there will be created in the children an inspiration to do their best in passing the grades, and an ambition to excel each other in their attainments. When the graded school system is once in operation the population of our town will increase in a wholesome and healthy degree.

I say this because it is the experience of all the towns that have tried it: It will increase the business of the town, and the churches and Sunday schools will be greatly strengthened. There will be in the future a better citizenship, a higher moral standard, and a purer Christianity. I believe all these things will be true if we decide to have the graded school.

Then the Lindsey-Wilson school will be benefited by it if they will raise their standard to a collegiate course, and take pupils from the graded school on through the higher branches. They will have the advantage now in favor of the country pupils in the rate of board and tuition and would hold their present advantage in cheaper board than could be secured in town for the graded school.

Let every citizen consider well what the present opportunity means to the future upbuilding of the town. If we would keep pace with our neighboring towns, and with the demand for a higher and more universal education of the future generations we must avail ourselves of these modern and better advantages. Don't vote against the measure because of the little money it may cost you. We can not have advancement on any line without money. If you have plenty of money and no children, count it a God given privilege to help bear the burdens of others. "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." Z. T. Williams.

#### A Voice From Monticello.

July 22nd, 1908.

A. H. Ballard, Esq.,  
Columbia, Ky.

Dear Sir:

Your letter in reference to the matter of a graded school has been received. Our school has now been in operation for three years and I think has been entirely satisfactory to all the patrons and I don't believe any body would be willing to go back to the old plan.

This year we have 453 pupils in the district which takes in a little more territory than the town. Our rate of taxation is 50c with \$1 poll tax and we collect on something over \$600,000. We have a bonded debt of \$10,000 for building and the interest on this is \$500 per year. These bonds were placed in

Chicago We employ a principal and six other teachers and they have their hands full as the attendance has been large. The principal this year will be a new man at a salary of \$1,000 for the nine months, three of the other teachers will get \$50 per month and three \$35. When we started we had to employ teachers from a distance but this year we will have some home teachers and they can afford to work for less than the others.

I think our collections for tuition outside the district amounted to a little over \$300 last year. We received from the State \$1,456 44 and our tax collections were about \$4,000. I hope this information will be of service to you and will cover the ground. We also employ a janitor at \$20 per month. Our building is heated by furnaces and fuel costs about \$150 per year. I am,  
Yours very truly,  
W. L. Baker.

#### A Modest Expression.

In answer to the courtesy of the News of last week in offering its columns for a free discussion of the question of a Graded School for Columbia, we offer the following as our view of the matter.

If the establishment of such a school would be a good thing for Columbia, not some other town in Kentucky, but for Columbia, then let us have it, and the sooner the better. But if not good, then the promoters of the idea do wrong in urging a speedy decision of the matter, on the ground of a choice between a Graded School and a High School, when we may not have to have either. As is well known there is much opposition to the new school law passed by the last legislature and some eminent critics hold that it will be declared unconstitutional. At least there is great probability that the law will be either repealed or radically changed. Two years were allowed. Then if a Graded school is not good for Columbia, let us wait and see what we have to do. If representatives of the State Normal schools had influence at Frankfort over legislation for the establishment of schools that would be largely tributary to themselves, and would tend to kill private schools, let us wait and see if they still have such influence.

The question is then, would a Graded School be a good or a bad thing for Columbia. The proposed increase in taxation would furnish money sufficient to pay a fair salary to not more than five teachers including a principal. The law requires that eight or ten grades be taught, not less than eight. This makes it coextensive in curriculum with the Normal department of the Lindsey-Wilson, in which are enrolled the greater number of the pupils of that institution.

We believe that most of those who vote for the proposed school will do so with the best wishes for the Lindsey-Wilson, and with conviction that it is for the best interests of the town in general, influenced by no personal motive whatever.

But ask yourself the question, how many people of Columbia, at least for a few years under influence attendant upon the establishment of a new school, will pay three dollars a month when they can enter the same grade in another school free of charge? Seriously cripple the Normal department of our school and you will render the continuance of the school in its present form extremely doubtful.

We do not want to discuss the question from a personal standpoint, but many people here believe that if you hurt L. W. T. S. you will hurt Columbia, and if you kill it, you will then have a graded school of eight grades taught by about five teachers, and be, in exactly the same condition as most other little towns of its size.

At the present rate of tuition, with the loss of the majority of the town pupils, we could hardly afford to continue even if the number in attendance continues the same.

If we raise the tuition to compensate for the decrease in attendance so that the income would remain the same, we would not get so many. It is not what we get out of it that is a benefit to Columbia, but the number induced to come here to school.

Any comparison of conditions in a little town like this and a much larger one, like Glasgow, is apparent rather than real, and would be so even if their female college appealed to pupils on the same grounds as our preparatory school. But not even that is true. Their course is for finishing and polishing the education of young ladies, and

does not to such a degree come in conflict with the public school course. Our school occupies a definite field but not just that one. The time is rapidly approaching in Kentucky, as it has already come in Tennessee, when all colleges, worthy of the name, will have an unalterable entrance requirement and when the requirements for the study of any profession will be so raised and so strictly adhered to that just the course we offer will be much in demand.

Just one other statement in the form of a question and this article will come to a close with the hope that all will be settled for the best interests of Columbia. Did anybody ever hear of a Graded School in a town this size having a boarding department and is that not what helps a town?

Neilson & Moss.

#### Candidates Named.

The following persons will be voted for on Saturday Nov. 23, to become Trustees of the proposed Graded School. Six names will comprise the Board and the six getting the largest number of votes will be declared elected:

Gordon Montgomery.  
W. D. Frazier.  
C. S. Harris.  
J. A. English.  
M. Cravens.  
Jno D. Lowe.  
Paul Smith.  
Geo A. Smith.

The Graded school proposition was aired at the court-house last Saturday night. Judge H. C. Baker, Rev. J. R. Crawford, Eld. Z. T. Williams and Hon J. F. Montgomery spoke in favor of voting the tax; Hon. Jas. Garnett and Gov. J. R. Hindman spoke against it. The question is getting warm, but the voters who are in favor of the school seem to be in the majority.

The old time corn husking is a thing of the past. Many years ago when a farmer would announce that he was going to have a corn shucking the darkies in all the neighborhood would gather and march to the crib, and in their travel they would sing something like this: "Hae, Marse Billy, we have come to shuck your corn, etc." They would all enter the crib, and after they would work an hour "Mars Billy" would pass the decanter, all drinking. Then the work and singing would again commence, and would be kept up unceasingly, occasionally stopping for a "nip," and by two or three o'clock in the morning "Mars Billy's" corn crop was all husked, it matter not how many barrels.

The campaign for the cause of education in Kentucky will begin Sunday, November, 29, and continue one week. Able educators will speak in nearly every county in the State. Prof. J. S. Dickey is billed for Adair county. He will be here Thursday, December 3d, and will speak at Milltown in the forenoon, Columbia in the afternoon and Gradyville at night. An effort should be made to secure large audiences for the speaker.

Dr. J. N. Page is authority for the following: He says a few days ago a young man left town in a spring wagon in which was a very large box. He drove to a farm house a few miles out and was in the act of unloading when the old farmer came to the door and said: "Don't put that off here; I haven't bought a piano." "It is not a piano," came the response; "it is your wife's hat."

The following farms have changed hands, the sales having been made last week: S. T. Hughes bought Wm. Bradshaw's farm, lying near Bliss, for \$3,150; a man named Head bought the Charley Herriford farm, in the same locality for \$1,200; Silas Cain sold Jo Hunter 150 acres of land, off the Hop Cheatham farm, for \$1,768.75.

Tame pigeons have been very numerous at the home of Mr. M. Cravens for quite awhile. Last Friday he decided to reduce the number, as they used in his barn, damaging his hay. He notified several boys to get their guns and go to shooting. About thirty were killed, leaving about the same number.

On account of the long dry spell, a great many farmers in Adair county did not sow oats until last week. It was a little late for the sowing, but favorable conditions from now on will bring out a good crop.

The boys are having fine sport this week, shooting quail, rabbits, etc. It is said that birds are not very plentiful, and are using in certain localities.

Born, to the wife of J. F. Neat, Wednesday, Nov. 9, 1908, a daughter, Willie Howard Taft.

Judge H. C. Baker opened the Cumberland circuit court at Burkesville last Monday.

## AN INCIDENT OF THE WAR.

The Killing of Capt. John R. Curry  
By W. S. Long, in this place,  
September, 1864.

#### A DISPLAY OF GENUINE COURAGE.

In September, 1864, the population of Columbia was not more than one-third as large as it is at this time, and notwithstanding the war of the rebellion had not closed, its inhabitants were quiet, law abiding citizens.

Capt. John R. Curry at that time was stationed here with a company of Federal soldiers, and they were camped back of the Presbyterian College, but Curry boarded at the hotel which was conducted by the late I. C. Winfrey, located on the corner and in the same building the Citizens Bank is now doing business.

Some time during the Summer months of 1864 Mr. W. S. Long, a young man 22 years old, reached Columbia, en route for Clinton county, his home. He had been a soldier in the Confederate army and had been in a Federal prison, having been taken a prisoner, but who had been released through the influence of Col. Thos. E. Bramlette, who at that time was the Governor of Kentucky and a relative of Mr. Long.

When Long reached Columbia Mr. Alfred Gilmer, a merchant here, doing business on the corner now occupied by W. F. Jeffries & Sons, was needing a salesman. He knew the Long family and knew that the young man in question had been brought up in a store. He met him and an agreement was reached whereby he was to remain in Columbia and do business for him.

He had not been in the store but a short time until Capt Curry took a dislike to him, it was believed, because Long had served in the Confederate army, and he was often heard making rough remarks about the young man.

In August, of that year, a young man named Ryne, who lived in Burkesville, and who served in the Confederate army, rode into Columbia and went direct to Mr. Gilmer's store.

He and Long were together in the army; he was also captured, placed in the same prison with Long, and through Governor Bramlette's influence he was also released.

Capt. Curry on that day was very much under the influence of liquor, and seeing Ryne go into the store, he buckled on his revolver and went over. He immediately commenced abusing Ryne for being a rebel, etc. Mr. Long said to Capt. Curry: "Captain, I rather you would not make any trouble in the store." Thereupon Curry became furious and wanted to kill Long. Lieut. Huddleston and one or two soldiers took hold of Curry, carried him to the hotel and put him to bed. The next morning he was sober, but he did not renew the trouble.

Just one month to the day from that time he got drunk, buckled on his revolver and went to Gilmer's store. Long was behind the counter. When Curry entered he walked up to the counter, facing Long, and said:

"Mr. Long, have you anything against me?"

Long dropped his head for a second or two, raising it, and looking Curry in the eye, said:

"Captain, just one month ago you acted a scoundrel in this store."

Curry's response was, "get your pistol; I have come over to kill you."

Long reached in the money drawer, picked up his revolver, pointing it at Curry's head, said: "I have got it."

The writer was in the store at the time and he is not certain whether it was Mr. Sinc Wheat, who was in the store, or Mr. Gilmer who said: "Billy don't shoot." By this time soldiers entered, and again carried Curry to the hotel.

In a few minutes a squad of soldiers entered the store, arrested Long and marched him to the corner where the post office is now located. While there, and under arrest, Curry was being held by two soldiers, but making all manner of threats. Finally, a very large soldier, named Stuckey, who was from Tennessee, put his arms around Curry, drawing him close to his breast, and at the same time telling Long to get out of the way.

Long passed up the street until he reached the place where McLean Bros. are doing business. At that time there was a vacant lot where the store house now stands, cut off from the livery stable lot by a low fence. When Long had reached this vacant lot, Curry was turned loose, and he started after Long, pistol in hand. Long seeing him coming, and being unarmed, he jumped over the fence, intending to make his escape through the stable. Curry in

the meantime whirled, came hurriedly back and entered the stable from the front, just as Long entered from the rear. Long turned and came back to the fence and in jumping over it, Curry fired at him twice. Long ran on to the square and hailed: "For God sake; some body bring me a revolver." Dr. S. K. Rhorer was selling drugs in a room just above where Triplett & Eubank are doing business, and hearing Long's cry, he ran out of his store, handed him a revolver, telling him to defend himself. Long turned, and as he did, Curry had reached the fence. Long fired twice, and evidently Curry received his death wound at this place for he ceased to fire, turned, went back through the livery stable, aft at the same time Long walked down the pavement and took his stand on the pike half way between the hotel and the building which stood where the post-office now is kept. Curry came on through the stable, and reaching the front, he fired at Long twice, the shots being returned by Long. When the firing ceased Long had yet one load remaining in his revolver. He cocked it, walked into the livery stable, and seeing Curry lying in a stall, stepped out and returned to the store.

Hon. George Alfred Caldwell was here at that time to see his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Traber, and while the shooting was going on he was in his buggy and upon the square. After it was over he remarked that he had seen a great many brave men, but that Long displayed more courage than he ever before witnessed in any man.

It was war time, and Curry had at his back a hundred soldiers.

Curry lived a day, but before he died he sent for Mr. Long, told him that he was to blame for the trouble; that he was going to die and asked that he forgive him. Long readily consented to the request, and in a short time Curry was dead.

In three or four days the civil authorities arraigned Mr. Long and he was tried and acquitted.

Mr. Long now lives in Paris, Texas. When this killing occurred the writer was but a small boy, but he witnessed the affair from the beginning to the ending, and is satisfied that the narrative is told correctly.

#### Death of Mrs. Nancy J. Lowe.

The subject of this notice crossed the great divide Monday the 9th, inst., at the home of her son, Mr. Gid Lowe, Cookeville, Tenn. She was the mother of Mr. J. D. Lowe, of this place, who reached the bedside of his parent before the end came. She was 78 years old and her death was caused by diseases incident to old age. She was a lady highly respected for her many Christian virtues, and her demise not only brought sorrow to the surviving members of the family, but to every body in the community where she was so well known.

The News extends its sympathy to the surviving members of the family.

The installing of a telephone line from here to Cookeville is progressing as rapidly as possible. All the poles are planted, and the bank of Pittsfork. Mr. Miller, met with difficulty in making blasting necessary to set the poles. However, the line will be completed before stated, there is no doubt of this line—straight to Cookeville, a great convenience to the hamlet and of that

Dr. O. S. Dunbar, sold his residence last week to Mr. Green B. Smith, of Cookeville. Dr. Dunbar gives the first of January. Dr. Green B., who is located at Monticello, will occupy the residence of the Dr. Dunbar. Dr. Dunbar is a Western State.

#### Preaching

W. H. C. Sandidge, W. S. Dudgeon, F. J. Barger, C. Z. T. Williams, J. R. Grider, Mt. J. N. Walbert, H. J. R. Crawford, Col. A. R. Kasey, Tabor. J. A. Johnston, Pleasant W. B. Cave, Liberty.

#### Bault--Pike.

Mr. Albert Bault and Miss Clara Pike, who live on Green river, were married last Sunday afternoon, Rev. Wm Dudgeon officiating. Quite a number of friends witnessed the ceremony.

Remember that the District School will be at the court-house Thursday night the 26th. There will be fun for all who will attend.

## SURPRISED THE YOUNG FOLKS.

Mr. Bruce Montgomery and Miss Kate Walker Quiteely Married Saturday Afternoon.

#### CEREMONY AT HOME OF REV. W. H. C. SANDIDGE.

Mr. Bruce Montgomery, Assistant cashier of the First National Bank, and a very elegant and popular gentleman, the third son of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Montgomery, and Miss Kate Walker, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Walker, one of Columbia's worthy and popular young ladies, have been lovers for many months, and it was generally believed among the young people that they were contemplating matrimony and that the event would occur in the near future.

A few days ago the young couple concluded that their marriage was a very quiet affair, there being no many friends.

Saturday morning parties notified their relatives of the coming event, and the intended licenses, and he and his bride drove to the residence of Rev. W. H. C. Sandidge where they were married, the minister pronouncing a beautiful ceremony.

After the rites had been solemnized Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery drove to the residence of the bride's parents near Gradyville, where they were happily received.

They returned to this place Sunday afternoon, and for the present will have rooms at the Columbia Hotel.

In testimony of the popularity of this young couple, they received many handsome and useful presents.

The News extends its best wishes, praying that they may live to a good old age; that their love may never weaken, and as they go hand in hand down the stream of time, may prosperity attend them in all their undertakings.

Mr. H. T. Baker, who was operated on in Louisville last week for catarrhal trouble, reached Lebanon last Friday en route home. The operation was severe, followed by a considerable flow of blood. The weather being quite chilly, he stopped over in Lebanon in order to avoid taking cold. His sister, Miss Sallie went up to Lebanon Monday morning and will remain with her brother until conditions are favorable for his return. His condition is not alarming.

Mr. J. H. Judd and Mr. T. C. Davidson were in Casey county last week. Mr. Judd is the Deputy Collector for this district, and he had been notified that a party in Liberty was selling a decoction that would intoxicate. He secured a bottle of the drink and sent it to Washington where it will be analyzed, to learn the per cent. of alcohol contained therein.

Persons who are not hearing the series of sermons being preached by Rev. J. R. Crawford, at the Presbyterian church, are missing able discourses. The meeting will continue through this week. Come and bring your friends. There is not a more zealous nor a more able minister in all this section than the speaker.

There were six or seven additions to the Presbyterian Church last Sunday. There were three or four daughters of Rev. J. R. Crawford, Mrs. Nannie Flowers, Mr. J. J. Biggs and Mr. Paul Hughes. The two latter received the ordinance of baptism. The others received by letters.

One of the strongest sermons we ever heard, the subject being "The operation of the Holy Spirit," was delivered by Rev. J. R. Crawford last Friday night. If there were those present who did not believe God heard and answered prayer, they were certainly convinced.

There are now two auto surries running regular between Columbia and Campbellsville. One leaves Columbia at 10 a. m. and arrives at 11 o'clock at night. The other leaves at 3 a. m., arriving at 3 p. m.

The United Brethren people are now cutting logs which will be hauled to the mill and sawed into lumber for their church. They calculate to get all the material on the lot as quickly as possible.

Mr. C. H. Murrell reports a crowd at Greensburg Monday, the 11th, of circuit court. Candidates for the coming primary in that district, made speeches.